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NSC BRIEFING

14 January 1954

INDONESIA

I. The trend in Indonesia favoring the Communists is continuing uninterrupted as prospects for the cabinet's overthrow by parliamentary action or a rightist military coup fade.

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- A. The Communists are infiltrating the government and subverting the National Party which heads it.
- B. They are also undermining the political opposition in Parliament and anti-Communist elements in the army.
- C. Soon this process will so firmly establish their over-all position that it will be almost impossible to reverse their progress toward seizure of full control.

II. The cabinet seems certain of maintaining indefinitely a parliamentary majority.

- A. There is no immediate prospect of any issue that will cause defection of its small party supporters.
- B. Even if these small parties defect, the government could rely on the Communist vote to insure a majority.

III. Anti-Communist elements in the army appear unable to organize for forceful action.

- A. They lack political support.
- B. Several anti-Communist territorial commanders are also cautious because of disunity in their commands.

IV. Major factor in present situation is President Sukarno's full support of government.

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- B. He has been considered only as being naive in his confidence to use and control the Communists.
- C. But his recent actions and reported contacts with the Communists suggest he has a closer relation to them than heretofore believed.

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the parliamentary leader of the Communist Party is now Sukarno's chief adviser.

- 2. Sukarno dealt heavy blow to anti-Communists in army by siding with pro-Communist defense minister in dispute over latter's policies.

V. Other strong men in Indonesia, notably Vice President Hatta and a former defense minister, the Sultan of Jogjakarta, staying aloof in present situation.

A. Reported they hope to create popular impression they are above politics.

B. But it is lack of leadership, which such men could provide, that leaves government's opposition ineffective.

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next move of Communists to

disrupt security forces will be to tamper with the Mobile Brigade of the Police, now under anti-Communist leadership.

A. Mobile Brigade, with American equipment and training, is most effective security force in Indonesia.

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VII. Before present government took office, had been hoped that first national elections, then scheduled for this year, would give moderate parties clean mandate.

- A. Elections now tentatively scheduled for 1955.
- B. Chances for moderate parties getting progressively worse.
- C. By next year, National Party and Communist will probably have things well organized enough to insure their success at the polls.

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